GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
TELEPHONE SERVICES IN VILLAGES
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private operators were required to provide telephone services in the villages throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed in respect of all operators separately;

(c) by when these targets were to be achieved;

(d) whether the date for achieving the targets has been extended;

(e) if so, the revised/extended date for achieving the targets;

(f) the number of villages provided with telephone services by each of the private operators till December, 2002; and

(g) the number of villages likely to get operational and efficient telecom system by the end of 2004?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUM MAHAJAN)

(a) The six private basic telephone service operators were required to provide telephone services in villages in the service areas of Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab.

(b) & (c) The details of the targets fixed in respect of above operators and the dates when these targets were to be achieved are as follows:

Name of the Operators	Name of Service Area	No.of Village Public Telephones to be provided during first 3years of the effective date	Target date
M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	16,500	30.9.2000
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	9,635	30.9.1998
M/s Hughes Telecom Ltd.	Maharashtra	25,760	30.9.1999
M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	8,635	30.9.1998
M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	31,834	4.3.2001
M/s HCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	5,442	30.9.1998

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The private basic telephone service operators have been asked to fulfill their roll out obligations by 31.3.2003.

(f) The details are as follows:

Name of the Operators	Name of Service Area	No. of Village Provided with telephone service till 31.12.2002+
M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	348
M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	1,314
M/s Hughes Telecom Ltd.	Maharashtra	1,140

M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	2,894
M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	693
M/s HCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	734

+As reported by the private basic telephone service operators

(g) Private basic telephone service operators have been asked to fulfill their roll out obligations by 31.2003.